



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

1400 North Outer Line Drive
King of Prussia, PA 19406

610 783-1037 phone
610 783-1038 fax

Valley Forge National Historical Park News

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Contact(s): **Mike Caldwell**

Phone number: **610-783-1037**

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Proposed Settlement Reached for Park Asbestos Clean-up

Valley Forge National Historical Park

For many years, 112 acres at the heart of Valley Forge NHP have been closed to the public, contaminated by asbestos and other toxic materials. A proposed settlement for cleaning it up has been reached, and public comment is sought.

In 1997, a suspicious substance in the soil later proved to be asbestos. Asbestos and other toxic substances had been dumped in the area in the mid-20th century when an asbestos-products plant was located in what was then Valley Forge State Park and is now the national park.

The US Environmental Protection Agency conducted an emergency response to abate the immediate risks to public health and welfare posed by potential airborne release of asbestos. The 112-acre area also was fenced off and closed to public use.

Because this area lies at the heart of the most historic landscape in the park—the Grand Parade—the goal from the beginning was to clean it up and return it to full, safe access and use by the public.

After public comment, the National Park Service, with the concurrence of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, selected a remedy for the site in 2007. The remedy includes excavation of a top layer of soil that is contaminated with asbestos in excess of specific concentrations, capping of those areas, and revegetation with native materials.

Now, in a proposed Settlement Agreement, the United States and the Commonwealth agree to jointly finance the cost of the clean-up. The National Park Service is the lead agency and responsible for implementation of the remedy. The Commonwealth will fund 60% of the costs, and the United States 40%.

A 60-day public comment period opened on April 5. The Settlement Agreement and a means to comment can be found on www.nps.gov/vafo.

Implementation of the clean-up is expected to begin this year.

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